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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Jan F.A. SMITS )  
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TITLE: HALLUX VALGUS BRACE

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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**AMENDED CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A hallux valgus brace comprising a three point lever means for correcting the position of the big toe, wherein the brace including the three point lever means is designed to be located distally of the metatarsal joint, wherein the three points of the lever means are sized and configured such that one point is located on the medial side of the first phalanx of the big toe, one point is located on the lateral side of the distal end of the big toe, and one point is located on the ball of the foot.
2. (original) A brace according to claim 1, wherein the brace comprises a proximal pad pressing on the first phalanx of the big toe, a distal pad pressing on the distal end of the big toe, and a lever arm pressing on the ball of the foot.
3. (original) A brace according to claim 2, wherein the distal pad is adapted to press on the distal end of the first phalanx of the big toe.
4. (original) A brace according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the distal pad is disposed on an adjustable arm.
5. (currently amended) A brace according to claim 4, wherein the adjustable arm is secured to a sleeve which is slidable ~~and may be fixed with glue~~.
6. (currently amended) A brace according to any one of the ~~preceding~~ claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein the brace is manufactured from steel wire and steel pads.
7. (currently amended) A brace according to any one of claims 2-6 or 3, wherein the lever arm is provided with a silicone tube.

8. (currently amended) A brace according to any one of the preceding claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein a strap is provided for fitting around the third toe.

9. (currently amended) A brace according to claim 7 8, wherein the strap is made of rubber or plastic or a hook and loop connection.

10. (currently amended) A brace according to any one of the preceding claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the distal pad carries a strap to be located around the big toe.